

SINNERS' PRAYER AMUSES RIDDLE, THE 'OPEN' MAYOR Atlantic City Head Holds to Creed of Giving, Not Praying

PLEASED AT SOLICITUDE Not Bothered by Pleas That He Be Converted in Stough Revival

By a Staff Correspondent ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 27.—It feels good to be prayed for, according to Mayor William Riddle, of this city, for whom prayer meetings are being held daily in the Young Men's Christian Association and in the 13 Protestant churches which will participate in the Stough revival campaign, opening here next Sunday.

"Have you ever heard that expression of Bob Ingersoll's?" Mayor Riddle said when questioned in his private office today. "Ingersoll said: 'The hand that giveth is better blessed than the lips that pray.' That's all the interview you will get out of me. Print it over my picture and in type an inch high."

At this point a messenger came into the office and handed the Mayor a package. "What's that?" he asked. "Another Christmas present. You don't have to do anything to get presents. Just sit and wait and they come pouring in, some of them from people you never heard of before."

The Mayor chuckled at the thought. Then turned to the consideration of religion as he views it.

GREECE FIRM IN NEUTRALITY, GOUNARIS SAYS Foreign Policy Unchanged Despite Result of Recent Elections

ATHENS, Dec. 27.—Ex-Premier Gounaris, who is expected to succeed M. Skouloudis as Prime Minister, declared in an interview today that Greece is determined to remain neutral. "We do not want to mix ourselves in this war unless events force us to depart from our policy of neutrality," declared M. Gounaris. "The foreign policy of the Government remains unchanged despite the outcome of the recent election. Greece is a small State and does not want to be dragged into a war which might result in a catastrophe for her similar to that suffered by Belgium and Serbia. We are just Greeks, and I am neither pro-German nor pro-French."

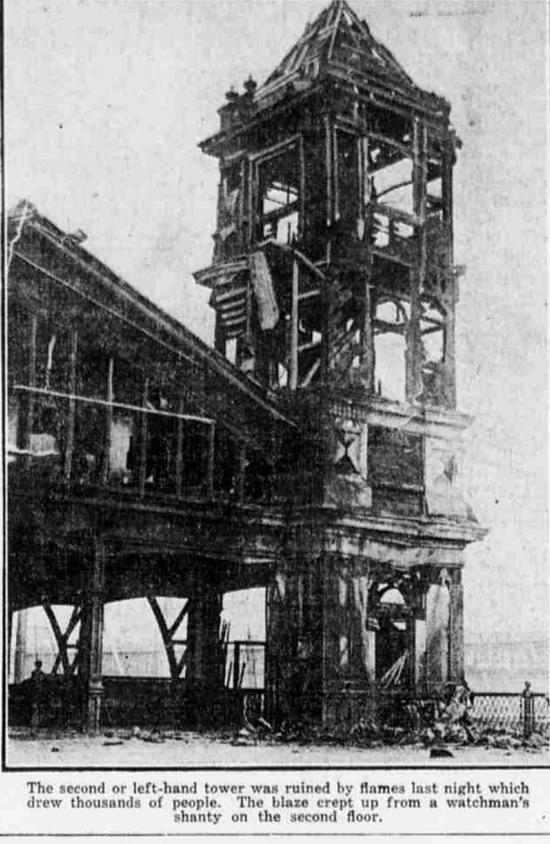
It is stated here that ex-Premier Gounaris, as leader of the majority in Greece, has informed King Constantine that he will support the present Cabinet and that the King has expressed his advice to make no change in the Government. M. Skouloudis will remain Premier.

It has virtually been decided that the Skouloudis Cabinet shall remain in power for the present. Premier Skouloudis has deferred to King Constantine's desire to make no change, at least before the Chamber reassembles on January 4. This information was given to the Times correspondent at Athens by the Premier, who also said that should events render it advisable the Chamber would be convoked before that date.

The latest reported Greek move is the prohibition of the export of food supplies from Greece to the Franco-British army at Salonica.

GREECE OFFERS OPEN ROUTE TO BULGARS AND TEUTONS LONDON, Dec. 27.—A dispatch from Rome today says the correspondent has learned in reliable quarters that the Germans have completed their diplomatic maneuverings with the Greek Berlin guarantee that the Greek territorial integrity will be respected and in turn receiving Greek assurance that no aid will be afforded to the Allies.

FIRE DAMAGES RACE STREET PIER



The second or left-hand tower was ruined by flames last night which drew thousands of people. The blaze crept up from a watchman's shanty on the second floor.

ST. CLAIR MERCHANT SLAIN AFTER QUARREL IN SALOON; 3 ARRESTED State Police Seek Other Men Said to Have Been Implicated in Killing Joseph Burchill

POTTSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 27.—Joseph Burchill, a merchant on St. Clair, is dead, and three men are in prison, charged with being implicated in killing him. The other suspects are at large, with a detail of State police searching for them. It is alleged that the murder is the result of a quarrel in a saloon in St. Clair, late last night. A bullet passed through Burchill's heart, and a cut from his shoulder to the groin on his right side was inflicted with a knife.

The crime was committed upon a corner of a street in the heart of the town. The police have learned that the men had been quarreling and Burchill left for his home. He was overtaken by his assailants and attacked. Burchill tried to get to his home, but died on the porch of a neighbor.

A companion of Burchill, a Tyroler, whose name is not known, sustained a wound in one of his legs. The report of the shots awoke persons in the neighborhood, some of whom arose and went to the scene, but the assailants had disappeared.

STORM HITS WATER GAP Damage Wrought to Property by Freakish Winds STROUDSBURG, Pa., Dec. 27.—The freak windstorm which swept this locality left in its wake much damaged property in the rural sections. Various structures standing exposed to the storm were wrecked. The brick Castle Inn garage at Delaware Water Gap, of which Dumbuck D. Drake is the owner, was almost completely blown to the ground on Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. Only the front part of the building, used as an office and postoffice, remains standing.

REV. H. C. STONE'S POST AT TRINITY CHAPEL FILLED

The Rev. J. Ogle Warfield, of St. Peter's, Germantown, Is Appointed REVIVES RESIGNATION Head of Stonemen Fellowship May Devote All His Time to That Work

Announcement was made today that the Rev. J. Ogle Warfield, recently assistant at St. Peter's Church, Germantown, had been appointed assistant rector of Holy Trinity Church. This is the position held by the Rev. H. C. Stone, head of the Stonemen's Fellowship, and the appointment of the Rev. Mr. Warfield is taken by the thousands of Stonemen in the city to mean that the Rev. Mr. Stone has resigned his position as assistant rector of Holy Trinity, in charge of the Holy Trinity Chapel, 22d and Spruce streets, to devote all his time to the affairs of the club of which he is the head.

It has been rumored for six weeks that Mr. Stone intended to give up his work in Holy Trinity Chapel and devote himself exclusively to the Stonemen, and the appointment of Mr. Warfield is regarded as bearing on that rumor.

NEW "DRY" STATES PREPARE FAREWELL TO OLD KING BOOZE Stocks of Rum Being Sold Out With Feverish Haste and at Cut Prices—Temperance to Rule January 1

COLUMBIA, S. C., Dec. 27.—Police were called in today in many counties to aid in handling the crowds which are storming the dispensaries before their closing under the State dry law. In many counties the shops were greatly overstocked and as a result whisky, beer and wine are being sold at bargain prices. All dispensaries must go out of business January 1. What to do with the

SEVEN STATES WILL GO ON WATER CART JANUARY 1 Six western States bought liquor at high speed today in preparation for the extension of the water-wagon route to Colorado, Iowa, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Arkansas, January 1.

WANTS TO CHANGE HIS NAME James W. Holmes Prefers to Be Known as William W. Gaynor James William Holmes, of 219 Madison square, has petitioned Court of Common Pleas No. 1 for permission to change his name to William Weldon Gaynor, the name he adopted when he left home at the age of 17 years.

QUICK NEWS

SEEKS RECEIVER FOR TEXAS AND PACIFIC R. R. DALLAS, Tex., Dec. 27.—The Bankers Trust Company, of New York, today filed receivership proceedings against the Texas and Pacific Railroad for failure to pay interest on bonds. Federal Judge Weeks set the hearing for January 31, 1916.

GREEK KING REPORTED GRAVELY ILL PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Athens correspondent of the Midi wires to his paper that King Constantine is suffering from virulent pleurisy and that his condition is serious. The dispatch says: "Recent reports describe King Constantine's illness as grip and say he is out of danger, but such is not the case. Although the world at large has been much mystified as to the nature of the King's malady, it is well known to physicians here that the sickness of the Greek monarch is unfortunately fatal. It is no secret among Greek physicians that the King is a victim of virulent pleurisy, which is conceded to be incurable. Constantine's death is regarded as certain within three years."

BERNHARDT REPORTED SINKING RAPIDLY NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Sarah Bernhardt is sinking rapidly, and her physicians do not believe she can live long, according to a cablegram received from Paris today by the Universal Film Company. "Bernhardt sinking very rapidly. Relatives state condition not hopeless. Physicians believe she cannot live long," the cablegram given out by the film company stated.

FOUR CHINESE PROVINCES IN REVOLT PEKIN, Dec. 27.—Simultaneously with the promulgation of an order sending 60,000 Government troops to stamp out the revolution in Yun-Nan Province, reports reached Peking today that the revolt had spread to the adjoining provinces of Kwan-Si, Kwei-Show and Szech-Wan and that General Tsai-Ao, the revolutionary leader, had enrolled under his banner 200,000 fully equipped soldiers. The Government forces sent to Yun-Nan probably will be largely increased.

RUSSIANS IN CAUCASUS DEMORALIZED, TURKS SAY CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 27.—The Turkish military authorities report that the Russian forces in the Transcaucasian theatre of war are demoralized. The Russians are said to be poorly equipped and to be suffering from the intense cold weather, while their ranks are being ravaged by cholera. Many Polish soldiers, it is said, are deserting the Russians.

TURK ATTACKS ON TIGRIS REPULSED LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Turks have begun a new offensive in Mesopotamia. An official dispatch from General Townsend states that the Turks began a fresh series of attacks against the British positions at Kut-el Amara, on the Tigris River, on Saturday. The assaults were repulsed with heavy losses for the Turks.

FRENCH CRUISER DESTROYS TURK BATTERY PARIS, Dec. 27.—The Ministry of Marine today announced that a French cruiser had bombarded the North African coast of the Gulf of Sollum, destroying a Turkish battery. The Gulf of Sollum touches the northwestern part of Egypt and the northeastern coast of Tripoli. It was also announced that the armed trawler Paris II found itself on the Ottoman coast in the vicinity of two large submarines equipped with artillery. The French trawler opened fire on the vessels, which, by using their superior speed, kept themselves at long range. After a cannonade of two hours the submarines fled.

TEN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED IN BERLIN LONDON, Dec. 27.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News Agency says that ten Socialists have been arrested in Berlin for attempting to incite disorder. BERLIN ALARMED BY KAISER'S ILLNESS, SWISS HEAR LONDON, Dec. 27.—Alarming rumors, probably of an exaggerated nature, are being circulated in Switzerland today concerning Emperor William's illness, according to the Zurich correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Company. The rumors state, says the correspondent, that the Emperor's condition is causing profound anxiety in Berlin.